

# **Treasury Information Processing Support Services-2 (TIPSS-2) Acquisition Overview**

## **Basic Contract Information**

Contract Type	Indefinite-Delivery Indefinite-Quantity, Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee featuring term and completion Task Orders.
Requirements	Information Processing Support Services across a wide variety of specialized areas.
Contract Life	One Year with Four Option Years.
Multiple Awards	Estimated 2-12 contract awards.
Type of Competition	Both Full and Open and Partial Small Business Set-Aside.
Scope	For non-mandatory use by the Department of the Treasury and its Bureaus.

## **Goals of the Acquisition**

### **Provide Information Processing Support Service**

- That Are Readily Available
- From Multiple Sources
- In A Wide Range of Technical Expertise
- With Emphasis on Continuous Quality Improvement

### **Streamline the Acquisition Process**

- To Decrease Time To Award
- While Lowering Proposal Costs To Offerors
- Increasing Evaluation Quality
- Widening The Competitive Field

### **Partnership With Industry**

- Focusing On Corporate Capabilities In Evaluation
- Clearly Defining Contract Administration Before Award
- Increasing Post-Award Communications
- Planning For Mutual Success

## Aspects of this Solicitation to Note

We would like to draw your attention to several aspects of this solicitation that may be of particular interest. In developing the solicitation, we studied several existing Government contracts for approaches and concepts. We carefully reviewed and researched comments to the draft solicitation from potential Offerors. When these suggestions appeared innovative and useful, we have incorporated them into our solicitation. The Overview is not intended to provide detail on the acquisition or competition process. It is intended to communicate the general concepts behind the acquisition and to share our rationale for the final form of the RFP. Potential Offerors who reviewed the draft solicitation should note the changes and clarifications that have been made to this Overview and to the RFP.

## Technical Requirements Structure

The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service require a wide range of Information Processing Support Services. In surveying our customers we determined that these requirements fell into one of four basic areas, which we call Principle Task Areas:

Principle Task Areas	Comment
Information Systems Services	Required for <u>all</u> Full and Open Offers; Competitive Choice for Small Business Set-Aside.
Telecommunications Support Services	Competitive Choice
Organizational/Management Services	Competitive Choice
Operational Support Services	Competitive Choice

In designing this solicitation, we have tried to take advantage of the diverse capabilities found in industry. The solicitation structure permits a degree of flexibility to present your best capabilities. The best case scenario will have awards that result in each Principle Task Area covered by at least two contracts. However, the Government intends to balance that goal in the source selection process with the overall value of the Offeror's total proposal. Awards are based on the overall proposal quality. No award will be made to Offerors whose proposals are not in the best interest of the Government simply to allow coverage on all Principle Task Areas.

It is important to note that small businesses are encouraged to submit proposals for either the Small Business Set-Aside portion or the Full and Open portions of the TIPSS-2 solicitation, but not both. We believe that small businesses can be very competitive in the full and open portion of TIPSS-2. This decision should be based on the Offeror's strengths and capabilities. Please reference Section L of the solicitation.

## **Capability Maturity Model (CMM®) Requirement**

Large Business Offerors and Small Business Offerors, who elect to compete under the full and open competition, must submit Proposals in the Information Systems Services Principle Task Area. The Offeror shall validate their company as CMM® Level 2 compliant, and provide documentation supporting their CMM® - Level with their Proposal. (Refer to Section J, Internal Revenue Service Capability Maturity Model Requirements and Instructions.)

Note: Only Contractors who are CMM® Level 2 compliant will be considered for IRS software development work in the Principle Task Areas that they received awards. This CMM® Level 2 compliance is not required to be awarded Task Orders for Treasury bureaus other than the IRS (reference Section H, Software Development and Level II Capability).

## **PAST PERFORMANCE SURVEYS**

As a condition of submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, the prospective Offerors must order the Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Reports identified in Section J by no later than September 28, 1999. All Offerors who elect to compete under the Full and Open competition shall provide D&B a list of ten (10) Task Order references for each Principle Task Area in which the Offeror chooses to compete. D&B will randomly select seven (7) references from those provided by the Offeror and collect the past performance information in Part 2, as specified in the Past Performance Questionnaire (reference Section J, Past Performance Questionnaire.) If the Offeror has identified that a Subcontractor will be used to satisfy the majority of the requirements in a Principle Task Area, at least two of the references shall cite the Subcontractor's experience.

Small Business Offerors who submit a proposal under the Partial Small Business Set-Aside shall provide D&B a list of seven (7) Task Order references. D&B will randomly select five (5) references from those provided by the Offeror and collect the past performance information for Part 2, as specified in the Past Performance Questionnaire (reference Section J, Past Performance Questionnaire.)

## **No Alternate Proposals**

Goals of this acquisition include enhancing competition, preventing monopolization of awards, and broadening the base of technical resources and expertise to the Government. Therefore, we are limiting each Offeror to submitting only one proposal. Offerors are cautioned and warned that neither alternate nor multiple proposals will be accepted or evaluated.

More specifically, the Offerors shall not 1) submit more than one proposal; 2) submit both as a prime and subcontractor; or 3) submit as a subcontractor on more than one prime proposal. In addition, the Small Business Set-Aside

Offerors shall not submit a proposal for both the Full and Open and the Small Business Set-Aside Competitions. Please refer to Section L of the solicitation.

### **Relationship to Other Support Services Contracts**

The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service have a number of contract vehicles available that provide information processing support services. Many of these vehicles are limited in scope: with constraints that restrict their use to very specific types of services or utilization by only certain projects or systems. Some, though wider in technical scope, are intended to satisfy specific aspects of projects or programs. All contain contract value ceilings. These contracts will continue to serve their customers within their scopes and purposes until expiration of need or contract.

### **Multiple Award**

The solicitation structure provides significant value for the Government. Multiple sources will allow for continuous review of performance quality and leave alternatives open to the Government. As a result, we should be more responsive to our customer base and better stewards of public funds. We will not be dependent on single sources for particular services nor will industry be forced to change staffing patterns artificially.

### **Increased Communications**

Experience has taught us that providing the Contractor with a clear understanding of the work to be accomplished is the single most critical element in successful task completion. Generally our industry partners are motivated to provide usable deliverables and services. The interaction between Contractors and Government representatives is crucial to task success. While we need sufficient controls and guidelines, we feel that increasing technical exchanges early in the life of a task produces better products. Therefore, it is also our intent to provide continued usage of the internet and electronic mailing systems to disseminate information.

### **Contract Management Plan**

The Government has begun development of a TIPSS-2 Contract Management Plan for use after award. The Task Order Placement Procedures, a portion of the Contract Management Plan, is included as Section J. The Contract Management Plan may change during the life of the contract at the Government's discretion.